

Application No.: 09/874,123
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated January 4, 2005
May 4, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An image data transmission device for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data ~~stored in a storage section~~ to a prescribed plurality of image data reception devices connected thereto via a network, comprising:

a memory which stores the plurality of groups of image data, transmission destination data identifying which identify, for each group of image data, an image data reception device ~~forming a transmission destination, and that receives the image data of the group, timing data indicating the timing time at which transmission of the image data was instructed, in a corresponding fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted and a priority data that indicates whether the group of image data should be transmitted with priority to other image data~~;

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a setter which sets, ~~a transmission order for image data~~ for each transmission destination, the order in which the plurality of groups of image data are transmitted, the order being set on the basis of the timing data and the priority data; and

~~a transmission controller which controls a plurality of transmission of the image data corresponding to a plurality of transmission destinations, in such a manner that the image data is transmitted in parallel according to the set transmission order for each transmission destination stored in the memory, in accordance with the order set by the setter.~~

Claim 2 (Canceled):

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The An image data transmission device according to claim 2, for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data stored in a storage section to a prescribed plurality of image data reception devices connected thereto via a network, comprising:

a memory which stores transmission destination data identifying an image data reception device forming a transmission destination, and timing data indicating the timing at which

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transmission was instructed, in a corresponding fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted;

a setter which sets a transmission order for image data for each transmission destination, on the basis of the timing data; and

a transmission controller which controls a plurality of image data corresponding to a plurality of transmission destinations, in such a manner that the image data is transmitted in parallel according to the set transmission order for each transmission destination,

wherein the memory further stores priority data indicating a transmission priority, in a corresponding fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted, inside the storage section; and

the setter sets a transmission order for the image data for each transmission destination on the basis of the timing data and the priority data,

wherein at least two levels of priority are set in the priority data; and

the setter sets a transmission order for the image data for each transmission destination in such a manner that the transmission of image data having a high priority is performed prior to the transmission of image data having normal priority

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which was instructed for transmission within a prescribed period of time before the timing of the new instruction.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The image data transmission device according to claim 2 3, wherein ~~at least two levels of priority are set in the priority data~~; and the setter sets a transmission order for the image data for each transmission destination in such a manner that the transmission of newly instructed image data having a high priority is performed prior to the transmission of all image data having normal priority which has been instructed for transmission and is awaiting transmission.

Claim 5 (Original): The image data transmission device according to claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): An image data transmission method for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data ~~stored in a storage section~~ to a prescribed plurality of image data reception devices connected thereto via a network, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

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storing the plurality of groups of image data,
transmission destination data identifying which identify for each
group of image data, an image data reception device forming a
transmission destination, and that receives the image data of the
group timing data indicating the timing time at which
transmission was instructed, in a corresponding fashion with each
group of image data to be transmitted, inside the storage section
a priority data that indicates whether the group of image data
should be transmitted with priority to other image data;

setting a transmission order for image data for each
transmission destination, the order in which the plurality of
groups of image data are transmitted, the order being set on the
basis of the timing data and the priority data; and

controlling a plurality of image data corresponding to
a plurality of transmission destinations, in such a manner that
of the image data is transmitted in parallel according to the set
transmission order for each transmission destination in
accordance with the set order.

Claim 7 (Canceled):

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Claim 8 (Currently amended): The An image data transmission method according to claim 7, for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data stored in a storage section to a prescribed plurality of image data reception devices connected thereto via a network, comprising the steps of:

storing transmission destination data identifying an image data reception device forming a transmission destination, and timing data indicating the timing at which transmission was instructed, in a corresponding fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted, inside the storage section;

setting a transmission order for image data for each transmission destination, on the basis of the timing data; and

controlling a plurality of image data corresponding to a plurality of transmission destinations, in such a manner that the image data is transmitted in parallel according to the set transmission order for each transmission destination,

wherein in the storing step, priority data indicating a transmission priority is further stored, and in the setting step, the transmission order is set on the basis of the timing data and the priority data,

wherein at least two levels of priority are set in the priority data; and in the setting step, the transmission order is

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set in such a manner that the transmission of image data having a high priority is performed prior to the transmission of image data having normal priority which was instructed for transmission within a prescribed period of time before the timing of the new instruction.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The image data transmission method according to claim 7 8, wherein ~~at least two levels of priority are set in the priority data;~~ and in the setting step, the transmission order is set in such a manner that the transmission of newly instructed image data having a high priority is performed prior to the transmission of all image data having normal priority which has been instructed for transmission and is awaiting transmission.

Claim 10 (Original): The image data transmission method according to claim 6, wherein the network is the Internet.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data ~~stored in a storage section~~ to a prescribed

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plurality of image data reception devices connected thereto via
[[s]] a network, wherein the program is designed such that:

the plurality of groups of image data, transmission
destination data identifying which identify for each group of
image data, an image data reception device forming a transmission
destination, and that receives the image data of the group timing
data indicating the timing time at which transmission was
instructed, and a priority data that indicate whether the group
of image data should be transmitted with priority to other image
data, are stored in a storage section in a corresponding fashion
with each group of image data to be transmitted, ~~inside the~~
~~storage section;~~

a transmission order for image data for each
transmission destination is set on the basis of the timing data
and the priority data; and

transmission of a plurality of image data corresponding
to a plurality of transmission destinations is controlled ~~in such~~
~~a manner that the image data is transmitted in parallel according~~
~~to in accordance with~~ the set transmission order for each
transmission destination.

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Claim 12 (Original): The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 11, wherein the network is the Internet.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): An image data transmission and reception system comprising an image data transmission device for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data ~~stored in a storage section, on the basis of~~ in accordance with transmission instructions, and a plurality of image data reception devices connected to the image data transmission device via a network to receive the image data from the image data transmission device,

wherein the image data transmission device comprises:
a memory which stores the plurality of groups of image data, transmission destination data identifying that identify for each group of image data, an image data reception device forming a transmission destination, and timing data indicating the timing time at which transmission was instructed, in a corresponding fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted, inside the storage section and a priority data that indicates whether the group of image data should be transmitted with priority to other image data;

a setter which sets, a transmission order for image data for each transmission destination, the order in which the

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plurality of groups of image data are transmitted, the order
being set on the basis of the timing data and the priority data;
and

~~a transmission controller which controls a plurality of~~
~~image data corresponding to a plurality of transmission~~
~~destinations, in such a manner that of the image data is~~
~~transmitted in parallel according to the set transmission order~~
~~for each transmission destination in accordance with the set~~
~~order; and~~

the image data reception devices comprise:
a memory which stores transmitted image data;
a judger which judges whether or not printing has been
instructed; and
a printer which performs printing on the basis of the
stored image data, if it is judged that printing has been
instructed.

Claim 14 (Original): The image data transmission and
reception system according to claim 13, wherein the network is
the Internet.

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Claim 15 (Currently amended): An image data transmission and reception method for use with an image data transmission device for transmitting a plurality of groups of image data ~~stored in a storage section, on the basis of~~ in accordance with transmission instructions, and a plurality of image data reception devices connected to the image data transmission device via a network to receive the image data from the image data transmission device, comprising the steps of:

in the image data transmission device,
storing the plurality of groups of image data,
transmission destination data identifying that identify for each
group of image data, an image data reception device, forming a
transmission destination, and timing data indicating the timing
time at which transmission was instructed, in a corresponding
fashion with each group of image data to be transmitted, inside
the storage section and a priority data that indicates whether
the group of image data should be transmitted with priority to
other image data;

~~setting a transmission order for image data for each~~
transmission destination, the order in which the plurality of
groups of image data are transmitted, the order being set on the
basis of the timing data and the priority data; and

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~~controlling a plurality of image data corresponding to a plurality of transmission destinations, in such a manner that of the image data is transmitted in parallel according to the set transmission order for each transmission destination in accordance with the set order; and~~

in the image data reception devices,

storing transmitted image data;

judging whether or not printing has been instructed;

and

performing printing on the basis of the stored image data, if it is judged that printing has been instructed.

Claim 16 (Original): An image data transmission and reception method according to claim 15, wherein the network is the Internet.